

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 PM-04 SAM-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, EAID, SA, US

SUBJECT: COE ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY

REF: (A) JIDDA 452; (B) STATE 22746

1. IN RESPONSE REF A AND YOUR PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON THE
SUBJECT, REF B PROVIDES AUTHORITY TO CONCLUDE AN EXCHANGE
OF NOTES WHICH WILL PERMIT COE ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN
PROJECTS IN SAUDI ARABIA. YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM PRINCE
MIT'AB THAT YOU ARE PROCEEDING TO SUGGEST THIS EXCHANGE OF
NOTES TO THE SAG, THAT IT MUST BE CONCLUDED BEFORE WE CAN
PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE HE HAS REQUESTED FOR HIS MINISTRY,
AND THAT HE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE HIS INTEREST IN PROMPT
CONCLUSION OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES KNOWN WITHIN THE SAG.

YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO INFORM HIM THAT DELAY IN THIS CASE
WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT CORPS COOPERATION IN CIVIL

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PROJECTS REPRESENTED MUCH MORE THAN A SIMPLE EXPANSION

OF ITS ROLE; BASIC REVIEW OF CORPS, AND OTHER LEGAL
AUTHORITIES, WAS REQUIRED, ALONG WITH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
OF POSSIBLE IMPACT OF PENDING AND FREQUENTLY CHANGING
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS HAVING TO DO WITH CORPS ACTIVITIES
IN SAUDI ARABIA. FYI: FOR EXAMPLE, AS RESULT OF THE
FORMER, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT ONLY LEGAL AUTHORITY
AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS SECTION 607 OF FOREIGN

ASSISTANCE ACT, AND AID WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE 607
DETERMINATION TO ALLOW CORPS TO PROCEED; SALE OF SERVICES
TO PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY COULD NOT BE MADE UNDER THE
FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT, WHICH PROVIDES AUTHORITY FOR
CORP-MODA PROGRAMS. END FYI.

2. WE REGRET LONG DELAY IN RESPONDING TO MIT'AB'S RE-
QUEST. AUTHORITY GRANTED REF A REPRESENTS FIRST POSITIVE
STEP, AND YOU AND SAG MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE ARE PRESSING
FORWARD WITH OTHER STEPS NEEDED HERE WITH A GOOD HEART
AND FULL EXPECTATION THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET HIS
NEEDS PROMPTLY.

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